

that attendance at Sunday School is continued even during married life in most manufacturing towns. Perhaps it does not so often happen in Bradford as in Preston that children <sup>parents</sup> & grand-parents start together for the Sunday School. They habituate themselves to their <sup>own</sup> classes; but every such school, belonging either to the Church or to Dissenting <sup>denominations</sup> Churches, has its 'Select Classes' for men & women, in each of which it is not unusual to have as many as forty, or even eighty, members. And quite delightful classes there are to work with, those of the young women at any rate, who are full of naive intelligence, teachableness, & desire for the best things.

The congregational singing, again, which forms part of the various Sunday services, is a real delight to people blessed with fine voices & true ear, & who are seldom without some degree of musical training. This they receive from choir practices, in choral classes, perhaps in some degree, as in Counties, through concerts & occasional Oper. going; but where there is a will there is a way, & the people of Bradford have, for centuries, been known in all the country side as famous singers. Every fifty years or so the choirs of the neighbouring villages could go through the choruses of the Messiah, Elijah, &c. 'without book'; & what is better, many a common

were admitted to membership, & that they sought  
to protect their own rights. The various crafts formed  
guilds of their own, so that in fact each craft  
was under the government of its own leaders.  
As several <sup>craft</sup> guilds - & of the Superior Guild or  
Merchant Guild. In aspects of the Craft-guild was  
threefold, - to secure good work, to ensure work  
for all its members, & to exclude too great  
competition: to attain these ends they  
required that all work shd be submitted to  
examination & receive the corporation mark,  
& they limited the no. of master workmen, as  
well as the number of apprentices which each  
master might have. As early as Henry II. we read of  
guilds everywhere in all the principal towns in the  
Kingdom, & the only written laws then enacted partly of  
curious reminiscence of those ancient-guilds is  
still preserved in the Guild Festival of Preston  
Ch. is celebrated with much pomp & festivity  
every twentieth year - the great feature of the  
occasion being a procession in which  
the various crafts are seen in the act of  
performing their several arts.  
In the 13th or 14th centuries signs appeared  
that of Henry II. the worsted manufacture  
declined, despite the action of the guilds &  
some protective measures on the part of the  
Sovereigns; but in the same proportion the  
value of wool as an article of export increased.  
The long bright wool of Norfolk which was peculiarly  
fitted for the worsted manufacture was used at home  
chiefly; we read of little felt being reported things  
It was a great wool-bearing country, which directly  
sh. produced less wool, reported more from the  
earliest periods, as we have seen England  
has been largely employed for the length &  
firmness of its staples: the industry alone



Spinners & weavers can read off from musical notation as easily as from a 'print-book'; & certainly not in Exeter Hall or elsewhere would one hear the choruses of the gnomes & oratorios more joyfully rendered than by the Bradford Choral Society. The taste for music is all but universal; everybody sings, & you hear harmoniums & pianos in many a farm-house cottage; while the brass bands, the flang of fiddles of the mills shew as much enterprise as musical talent: certainly of the operatives find themselves under training with such happy results that they perform every week in the public parks in town with a good military band, before a large & very critical audience. Bradford has capital subscription, & occasional concerts; but it has not a "School of music" or Conservatoire, which offers <sup>free</sup> musical instruction of a very high order to pupils of both sexes; a highly valued privilege would such instruction be to the people of somewhat musical ability: but this is one of the advantages of State organization which we, <sup>in England,</sup> must be content to want in ~~England~~ <sup>England</sup>. The Bradford Mills close at 5.30 P.M., & thus, the operatives have a long evening wasted in pleasure-seeking, or upon personal improvement; <sup>for which</sup> many opportunities are put in their way. Elementary instruction is well provided for; besides that, there are evening classes for mathematics, languages, the various sciences, all well-taught & well-attended by working people, who are both able & willing to pay the small fee required. But <sup>unfortunately</sup> ~~unfortunately~~, we have nothing in England to <sup>equal</sup> ~~equal~~ it.

16p34 cm37  
then a famous clothing town, for to make the  
Eng. goods with any other kinds.

From exportation its raw state, this business was  
was a principal source of revenue to the exchequer,  
but what of the Eng. shd learn to make it into beautiful  
"Draperies" like those of Flanders? Her would be a  
source not only of national but of personal  
income, for the Eng. kings of the past were great  
sweepstakers.

Thus we have a long history showing how our  
of Lancastr. & York as sovereigns would then  
strangers to their shores, with crafty hand men  
scattered them widely amongst the Eng. towns, but  
they added each other up to a home enterprise wh.  
shd move them to pack up bag & baggage & together  
return to their native shores. Now they protected them  
by means of protective statutes & were charged with

and of privileges. So that it came to pass that from  
of course a tyrannical oppression the Flemings  
fled hither as to a fortress.

Thus on coming to us we have a great inundation  
which drove them afield. <sup>Some</sup> settled  
at the village of woolstead in Norfolk, where they set  
up their looms & made stupe of such excellent  
sort - that in time they gave name to a great &  
peculiarly Eng. manufacture. Now Flemish  
weavers followed in the reign of Stephen, & in his  
& the following reigns we find the weavers of  
Wilt. & Dorset paying into the Exchequer for  
the privileges of their several Guilds.

These craft guilds formed a peculiar feature in the  
municipal life of the Med. Ag. The necessity that in  
town as well as in country districts some system of mutual  
responsibility should exist, early gave rise to Guilds  
of the kind. The members of such were responsible  
for one another. Each for each their pos. held for  
otherwise behaved as members for self. (individual)  
family. But these ancient guilds became  
exclusive & somewhat tyrannical; only made



26435 med  
with the "École des Lettres et des Sciences" of  
Rantes, which provides free courses of instruction  
of a high order throughout nine months of the  
year; literature, science, art, chemistry,  
botany, physics, mathematics, history, and  
architecture are taught by first-rate lecturers  
every evening in the week. There is <sup>very little</sup>  
<sup>in classes, under the management of independent committees,</sup>  
as efficiently taught in Bradford as in  
other English towns; & the fact that a low  
fee is charged is an advantage rather than  
menial, for both the artisans & the members  
of the professional & mercantile classes are  
far better <sup>paid</sup> in England than in France. But  
English provincial towns have not, except in  
Lepas as they take advantage of the arrangement  
proposed by the Universities, the benefit of  
instruction at the hands of <sup>University</sup> first-rate men.  
Nothing like the lectures given by  
powers shown by a French Professor, say  
of history & literature, ~~would be~~ <sup>is</sup> a treat to  
English ears. But this is a loss to the  
educated rather than to the labouring classes.  
In the latter, nothing could be so really helped  
as the painstaking, thorough instruction <sup>provided</sup>.

In the matter of general reading, the  
working people of Bradford are certainly not  
behind those of Rantes: - "It would be  
difficult to enter the Public Library at Rantes  
without finding workmen in it; some  
reading for profit, others for pleasure." I have  
sometimes counted half a dozen workmen, even  
on a week day, in the Rantes reading room,  
which is open all the year round to townspeople &  
foreigners, without any kind of form or ceremony.

This industry. The trade in wool has been for  
seventeen centuries

Until I have learned that it is almost certain

The memory of man. The making of woven  
shells & ~~wool~~ <sup>wool</sup> with trade in wool have been  
the main sources of our national wealth: & that  
over some Britain became a nation; the  
Romans had sundry clothing towns in the island  
& at Winchester cloth was made <sup>choice enough</sup>  
for the <sup>emperors</sup> <sup>we make from</sup> wool spun into thread of fine  
says a contemporary historian, as to be comparable  
to a spider's web.

When the Conqueror came, he found the Saxons wearing rough  
clothes for home use, ~~carrying~~<sup>embroidering</sup> their wool. The luxury of Europe  
for its fineness, brightness & length of staple, to be made into fine

slaves by the Flemings. These people were held & by born  
with a gift for making textile fabrics. They were the  
clavier of Europe, & no other nation thought of  
competing with them. But William, with his  
usual judgment, conceived that they might  
beats his new subjects. He brought forth a colony  
of Flemings & planted them in various towns  
chiefly in Flanders where they established the trade  
wh. made th. for centuries one of the chief towns in  
my kingdom.

These early settlers formed a sort of nucleus to  
the gathered from time to time fresh colonies of  
Flem. weavers. Our kings were ever anxious  
to attract others skilful craftsmen. At that day  
England & Spain grew the wool <sup>with</sup> which was  
clothed the rest of Europe; ~~about~~ the fine Spanish  
wool. The merino breed was <sup>consequently</sup>  
derived from sheep of the breed a royal  
gift in the reign of - ? But even in Spain  
so highly was esp. wool regarded that ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~was~~  
was drawn upon for clothing the clothe of ~~the~~



26th Jan 1876  
Now have only to ask for the book you want, or help  
yourself to the works preference lining the walls of  
the pleasant, well-arranged reading room.  
In the winter time, it is open every evening from  
seven till ten, & I should like to know where  
we could find the same thing in England." -  
Bradford has a Free Public Library, established  
under the recent Act, which contains some  
27,000 volumes as against the 100,000 of  
Kantons, & in addition is well supplied with  
the public journals. 9,000 readers in the  
News Room & Reading Rooms, is an ordinary  
weekly average, 1,600 of these being women,  
that is to say, upwards of 1,500 persons, on  
an average read in these rooms in the  
course of a single day. Besides this, some  
5,000 borrowers take books to their homes.  
This is in the Central Department alone; &  
there are some half dozen branches for the  
convenience of people who live at a distance,  
each with its own stock of books & reading room.  
These numbers very fairly represent the  
'reading public' among the labouring classes,  
for the gentlemen read in their various clubs,  
a Church Institute & a Mechanics' Institute  
have each their libraries & reading rooms, & there  
is also a capital subscription library with  
nearly 90,000 volumes. So

Now in the face of such facts as these it is hardly  
the least fair to say that the English operative is not  
provided with or does not appreciate intellectual  
entertainment, or that he has no pleasant  
capital to the most distant ways of spending his long evenings. Local efforts  
are made to meet the wants of our working men very fully, & he  
appears to be in no respect one of those who have no personal comfort, &  
no more leisure, nor money, nor personal comfort, &  
no more intellectual resources, or the contrary, suffers in a provincial town.  
In fact, these intellectual resources become a more question of demand